

123 W. Gutierrez St

Designation

Status: Structure of Merit

Assessor Parcel

Number: 037-245-015

Historic Name:

Constructed: 1880

Property Description:

Italianate style. Two-story, rectangular shaped, flat roof building featuring a protruding porch supported by squared posts with beveled corners. The building's Italianate includes tall, narrow, 2 by 2 fixed windows, while the side windows and balcony windows are double-hung, framed with trim molding. Wall material is composed of ship-lap wood siding.



Architect: Unknown

Architectural Style: Italianate

Property Type: Commercial

Original Use:

Significance: The building was designated a Structure of Merit under the following criteria provided by the Municipal Code, Section 22.22.040 on November 29, 2017.

Criterion A. Its character, interest or value as a significant part of the heritage of the City, the State or the Nation:

The Italianate style on the primary façade of the building remained as a prevalent feature which drew in customers. The façade of the structure at 123 W. Gutierrez Street preserves enough of its character defining elements to identify its original architectural style. These features include its exterior ship-lap siding, and most of its tall casements windows with wood molding. These details comprise a significant part of the heritage of the City such that they are representative of the Italianate style in Santa Barbara.

Criterion I. Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature:

The building at 123 W. Gutierrez was once called the Talk of the Town which was a popular dining destination in Santa Barbara. Talk of the Town operated for 40 years from 1946 to 1986, which testifies to its success as a local restaurant enterprise. A 1983 Santa Barbara New Press article states: "As even the most discriminating gastronomes know, there are restaurants, and . . . then there are institutions—elegant, old line dining spots that have been doing their thing so well, so consistently and for so long that they are invariably mentioned when the subject of restaurants in a city come up. Talk of the Town was dining place of such a distinction in Santa Barbara." The article goes on to say: "For more than 35 years now the Talk—as it is known to its many regular customers—has held forth on Santa Barbara's lower Westside—an unseemly milieu for high quality dining but which nevertheless boasts two of the area's oldest and best regarded establishments (Casa de Villa being the other)" [Mann 1983].